
ACEND Virtual Town Hall Meeting
February 18, 2025, 11:00 a.m. Central Time

Host/Presenter: Rayane AbuSabha, PhD, RD
ACEND Executive Director

**Accreditation Council
for Education in
Nutrition and Dietetics**

the accrediting agency for the
**eat
right.** Academy of Nutrition
and Dietetics

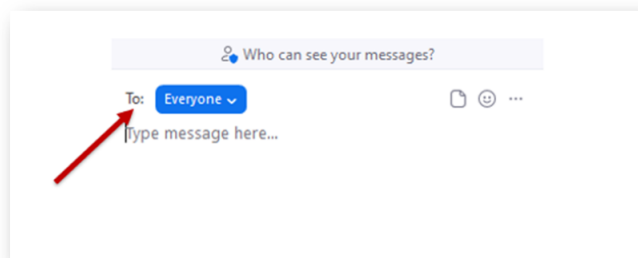
Webinar Recording Link:
<https://vimeo.com/1058264659>

Rayane AbuSabha thanked all attendees (224 participants). The meeting ended at 12:02 PM CT.

Welcome!

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- Lines have been muted.
- If you have questions or comments, use the chat feature and post to EVERYONE.
- To enable closed captioning, select **Show Captions** icon **CC** from the meeting controls toolbar.



Using Chats During ACEND Town Hall

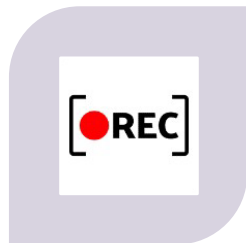


ACEND encourages attendees to use the chat feature to ask questions and express their opinions respectfully



At any point, ACEND reserves the right to remove an attendee from the Town Hall for inappropriate or harassing comments

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This webinar is being recorded



The slides and recording will be shared on the ACEND Town Hall webpage

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ACEND Announcements and Updates

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Update: Diversity Equity and Inclusion and Accreditation

- Institutions that adopt DEI are at risk of losing their funding
- Accreditors that enforce DEI in their standards and policies are putting their institutions at risk for:
 - Losing accreditation
 - Losing grant and Title IV funding
- Acceptable terminology and content is still uncertain
- Consulting with legal and will provide programs with an update
- ACEND continues to provide flexibility for programs to comply with ACEND's DEI requirements, based on their state and institution policies

Maximum Time to Complete the Program

- ACEND letter on Program Completion sent to programs February 10
- ACEND Required Element 8.2m: Maximum time to complete the program
- **Programs in Academic Institutions:** Follow your institutions' policy (Typically allows students 5-7 years to complete a program)
- **Free-standing Dietetic Internships** should have a time that greatly exceed the 150% program length:
 - ACEND recommends minimum of 5 years– may be longer
 - Currently not a mandate but ACEND is proposing 5 years in the 2027 Standards

Pilot 2024-2025: Dietetics Application Process for Supervised Programs (DIs, CPs, GPs)

- Surveys to collect feedback posted on ACEND website under program directors and students

- **Reminder: for 2025-2026 cycle all SP must use DICAS**

- Allows all programs to be in one system
- Supports applicants' experience and decreases confusion
- Supports enrollments

Fall

November 1: Applicant notification

November 15: Should not require decision before this date

December 15: Should not accept applications after this date

Spring

March 1: Applicant notification

March 15: Should not require decision before this date

July 15: Should not accept applications after this date

Upcoming ACEND Program Director Training

- **Register Now:** Join us for the virtual Accreditation Workshop (live) for the 2022 and FEM Standards
- **Dates:** May 20-21, 2025
- **Cost:** \$375 per attendee; \$250 for new directors of ACEND-accredited programs.
- Please visit the ACEND website for more information.



[Home](#) > [ACEND](#) > [ACEND Training and Volunteer Opportunities](#) > [Program Directors](#)

Program Directors Training Opportunities

This page highlights webinars and workshops that are designed for program directors.

Additional information for program directors can be found on the [Program Directors page](#).

ACEND® New Program Director Webinar

This webinar is designed to provide new program directors of ACEND-accredited programs information about the principles of ACEND accreditation and program director responsibilities. The webinar also reviews the resources available for program directors. Note: This webinar does not offer any CEAs.

- [View Webinar](#)
- [PDF of Webinar](#)

Program Director Workshops

The Program Director workshops are designed to help dietetic education program directors learn the latest accreditation standards and specific details on how to prepare for self-study reports and site visits. Individuals interested in applying to start a new ACEND program, as well as newly appointed program directors, are welcome and encouraged to attend and may be eligible for a registration discount. If you meet the discount requirements as outlined in the [ACEND fee schedule](#), contact ACEND for a discount code before you register. *Note: After October 2023, ACEND no longer offers the Clinical Skills Workshop. For inquiries about Academy-provided workshops, including future clinical skills workshops, please contact the Academy's Center for Lifelong Learning team.*

- [Workshops Covering the 2022 and Future Education Model Accreditation Standards](#)
- [Recorded Workshops Covering the ACEND® 2022 and Future Education Model Accreditation Standards](#)
- [ACEND Competency Based Education and Assessment Training](#)

Workshops Covering the 2022 and Future Education Model Accreditation Standards

Dates and Time

- Tuesday, May 20, 2025 | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Central time)
- Wednesday, May 21, 2025 | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Central time)

All meetings are virtual.

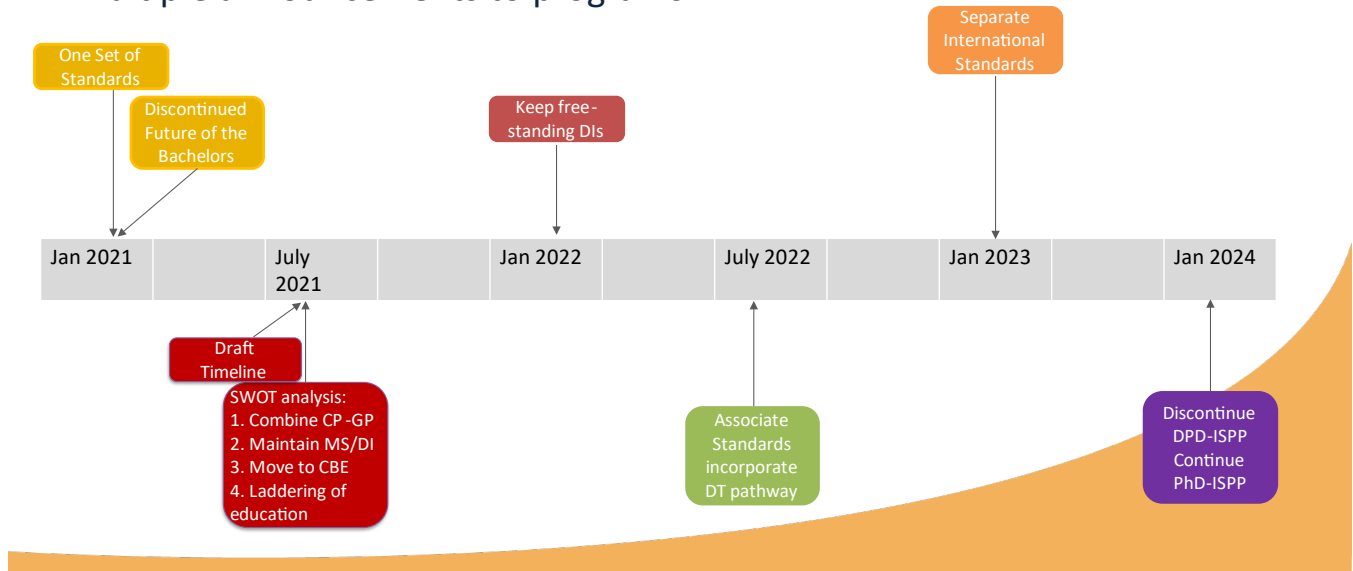


Standards Revisions Updates- 2027 Standards

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Board Discussions and Decisions: 2027 ACEND Accreditation Standards

- Board discussions began January 2021 and continued until January 2023 with multiple announcements to programs



Board Discussions and Decisions: 2027 ACEND Accreditation Standards

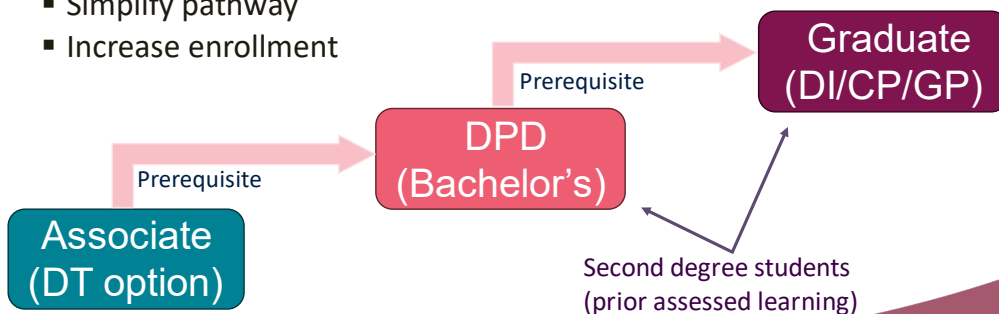
- Move all programs to competency-based education (CBE)
- Ensure education laddering
- Move to a general associate-level standards; Incorporate DT pathway
- Combine CP and GP into one set of standards
- Keep DPD plus graduate-DI as a separate pathway
 - Protect interns in intern-identified SP programs
- Move international ICP and FDE into a separate standard

Board Discussions and Decisions: 2027 Standards Announcements to Programs

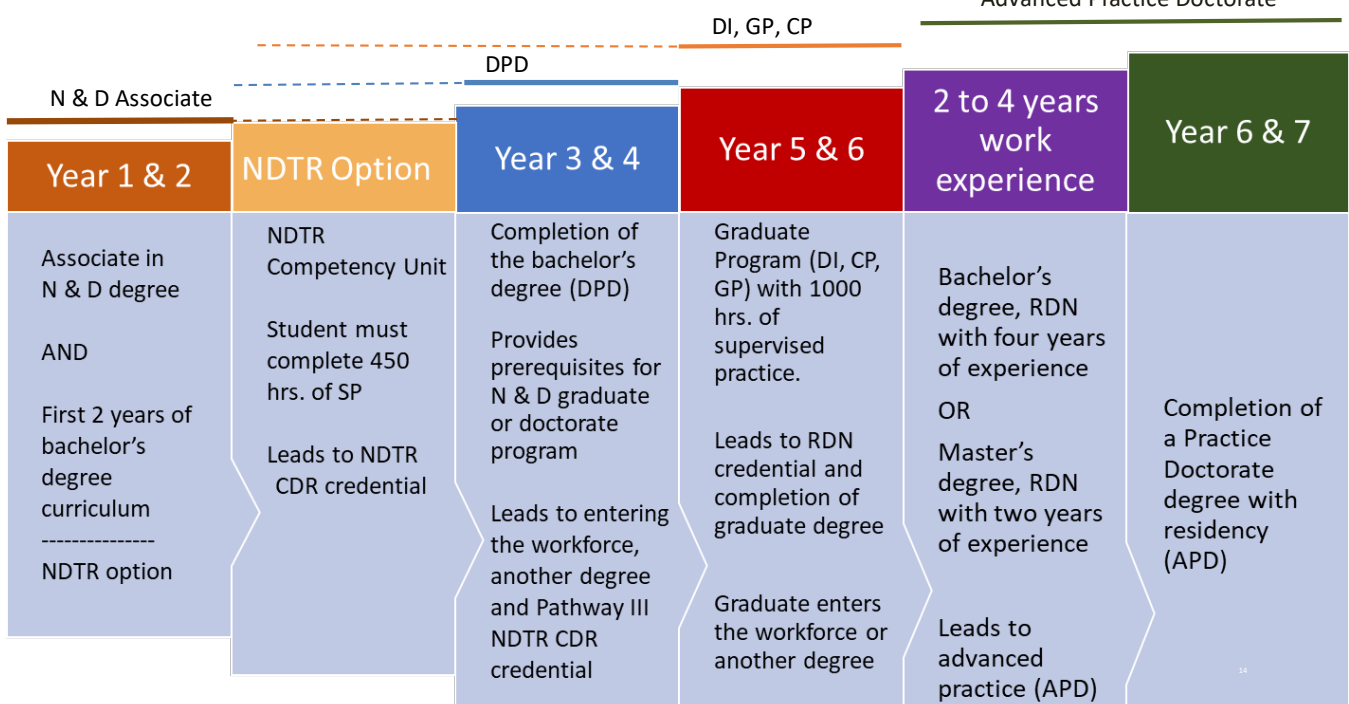
- Exec Director letter to all programs: April 2023
- FNCE 2023 ACEND Forum
- FNCE 2024 ACEND Forum and NDEP Breakfast
- April 2024 ACEND Town Hall
- July 2024 ACEND Town Hall
- September 2024 ACEND Town Hall
- Today: February 2025 ACEND Town Hall

2027 Standards: Education Laddering

- The degree curriculum and student competence are built upon from the previous degree.
- Allows students to progress through successive degrees while carrying forward course credits as completed prerequisites.
 - Minimize cost
 - Simplify pathway
 - Increase enrollment



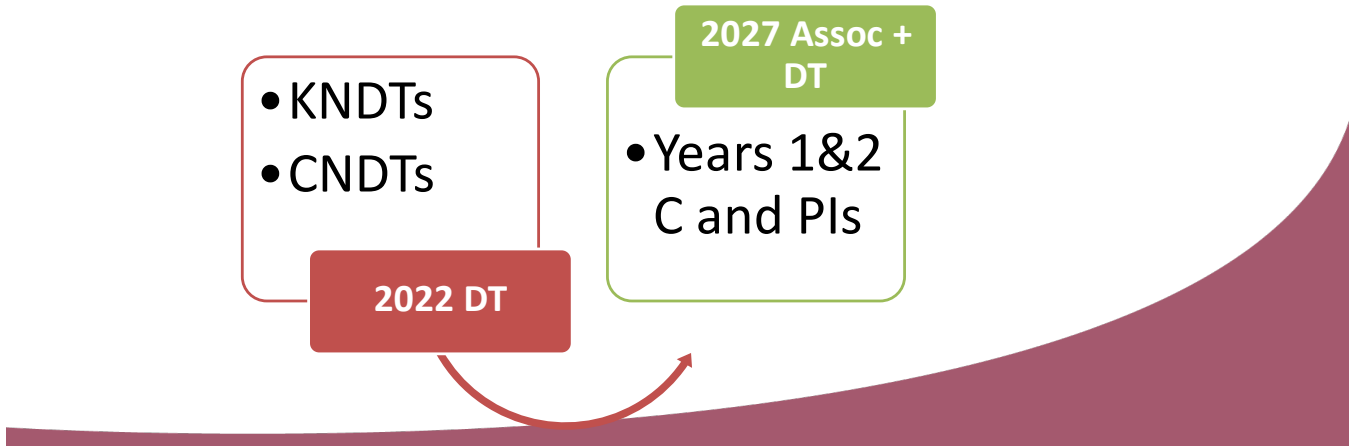
ACEND Standards for Stackable Credential



Updates on the Work of the Expanded Standards Committee Curriculum Updates as of February 2025

- Moved all the KNDTs, CNDTs, KRDNs, & CRDNs into Competencies and Performance Indicators (C and PIs)

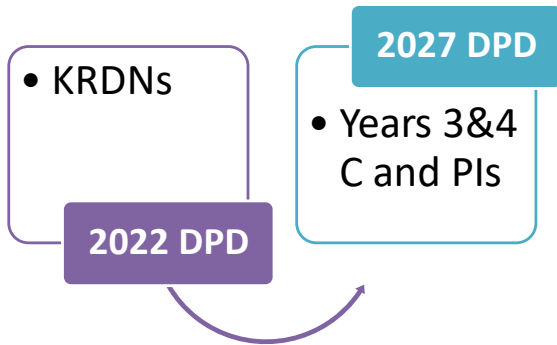
Associate Standards with Optional DT Focus



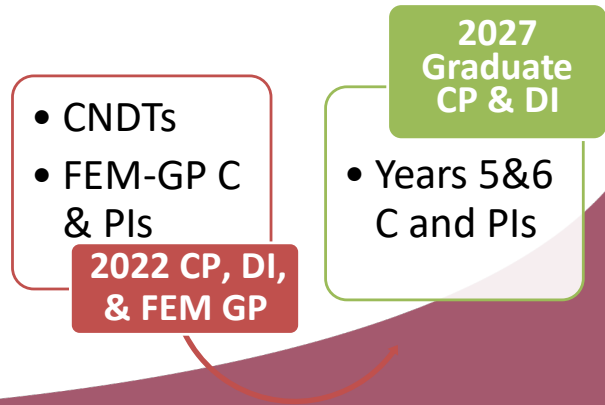
Updates on the Work of the Expanded Standards Committee Curriculum Updates as of February 2025

- Moved all the KNDTs, CNDTs, KRDNs, CRDNs into Competencies and Performance Indicators (C and PIs)

DPD Standards: Bachelor's Level



CP and DI Standards: Graduate Level

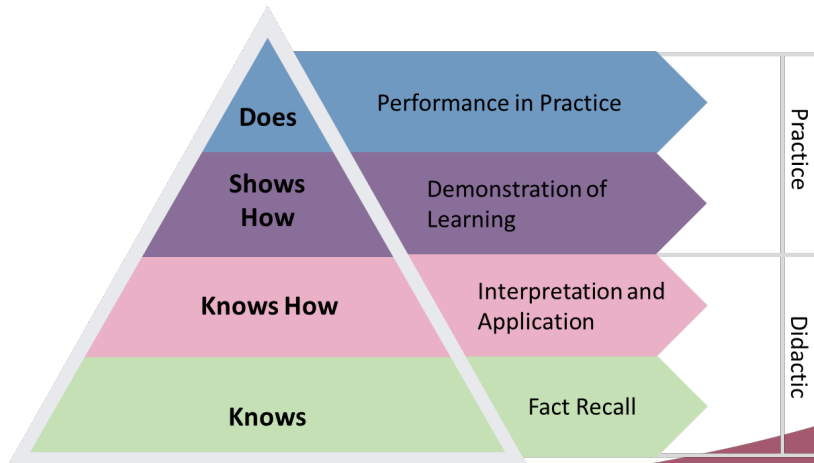


Updates on the Work of the Expanded Standards Committee Curriculum Updates as of February 2025

- Moved basic/foundational C and PIs of the FEMGP into years 1-4
- Completed the curriculum for the Associate Degree (years 1-2)
 - Layered the DT focus C and PIs
- Completed the curriculum for the DPD (years 3-4)
 - Almost no changes to the actual DPD content;
 - KRDNs are now expressed as C and PIs
- Completed the curriculum for the Coordinated Program (years 5-6)
 - Almost half the PIs in the FEM-GP have been moved to years 1-4
 - Remaining C and PIs are elevated to the graduate level

Updates on the Work of the Expanded Standards Committee Still to do:

- Set the Miller’s level of competency performance to each C and PIs



Competencies and PIs with Miller’s Hierarchy (e.g., GP curriculum)

Unit 1: Foundational Knowledge (cont.)	
Competencies	Performance Indicators
1.12 Demonstrates knowledge of and is able to manage food preparation techniques. (D)	1.12.1 Demonstrates understanding of safe work habits and safety hazards and employs preventive safety measures. (K)
	1.12.2 Converts recipes and ingredients based on client/patient’s preferences or dietary needs. (D)
	1.12.3 Develops recipes and menus and increases or decreases quantities served from the recipe. (D)
	1.12.4 Evaluates recipes using sensory evaluation methods. (D)
1.13 * Demonstrates computer skills and uses nutrition informatics in the decision making process. (D)	1.13.1 Analyzes appropriate data in electronic format to make best decisions related to nutrition and diet. (S)
	1.13.2 Evaluates accuracy and reliability when accessing and evaluating nutrition information in electronic format. (S)
	1.13.3 Operates nutrition informatics systems in practice. (D)
	1.13.4 Uses electronic databases to obtain nutrition information and evaluate credible sources in decision making. (D)
	1.13.5 Uses technology and informatics skills proficiently to aggregate data and enhance practice and client/patient care. (D)
1.14 Integrates knowledge of nutrition and physical activity in the provision of nutrition care across the life cycle. (D)	1.14.1 Evaluates, integrates and communicates nutritional requirements across the life cycle. (D)
	1.14.2 Identifies nutritional risk factors across the life cycle. (D)
	1.14.3 Teaches the benefits of physical activity across the life cycle to individuals, groups and populations. (D)
	1.14.4 Explains and takes into consideration how nutrients, nutritional supplements and hydration influence physical activity and wellness. (K)
1.15 * Applies knowledge of nutritional health promotion and disease prevention for individuals, groups and populations. (S)	1.15.1 Recognizes and communicates the cause of disease and nutrition risks. (K)
	1.15.2 Identifies, prioritizes and implements health risk reduction strategies for individuals, groups and populations. (S)
	1.15.3 Examines the influence of the determinants of health on health and wellness. (S)
	1.15.4 Designs food and nutrition activities for various audiences considering factors relevant to individuals, groups and communities. (S)
	1.15.5 Applies behavior change theories for nutritional health promotion and disease prevention. (S)

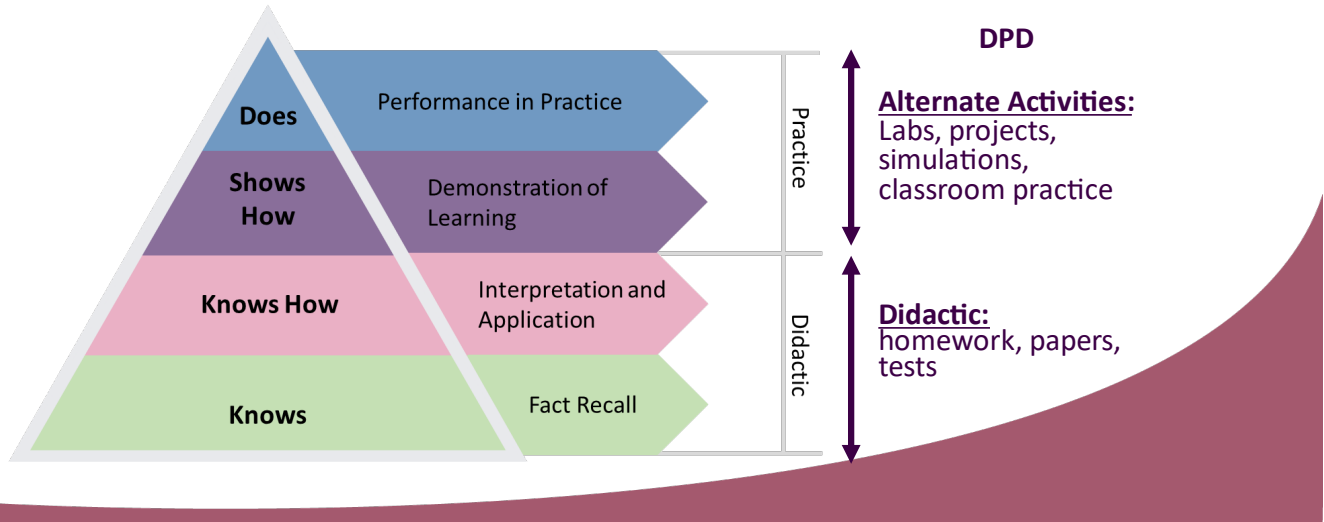
Example

Supervised Practice or Alternate Activities
Does **(D)** Level PIs

Didactic – Classroom
Knowledge **(K)** level PIs
Shows **(S)** level PIs

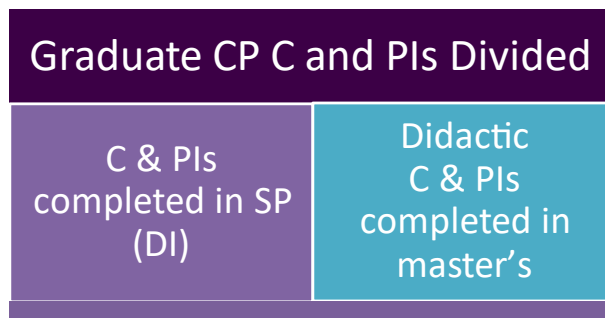
DPD Curriculum – Absolutely NO Supervised Practice

DPD Curriculum has never been purely didactic! All assignments, role plays, simulations, projects, etc. are SHOWS HOW and DOES

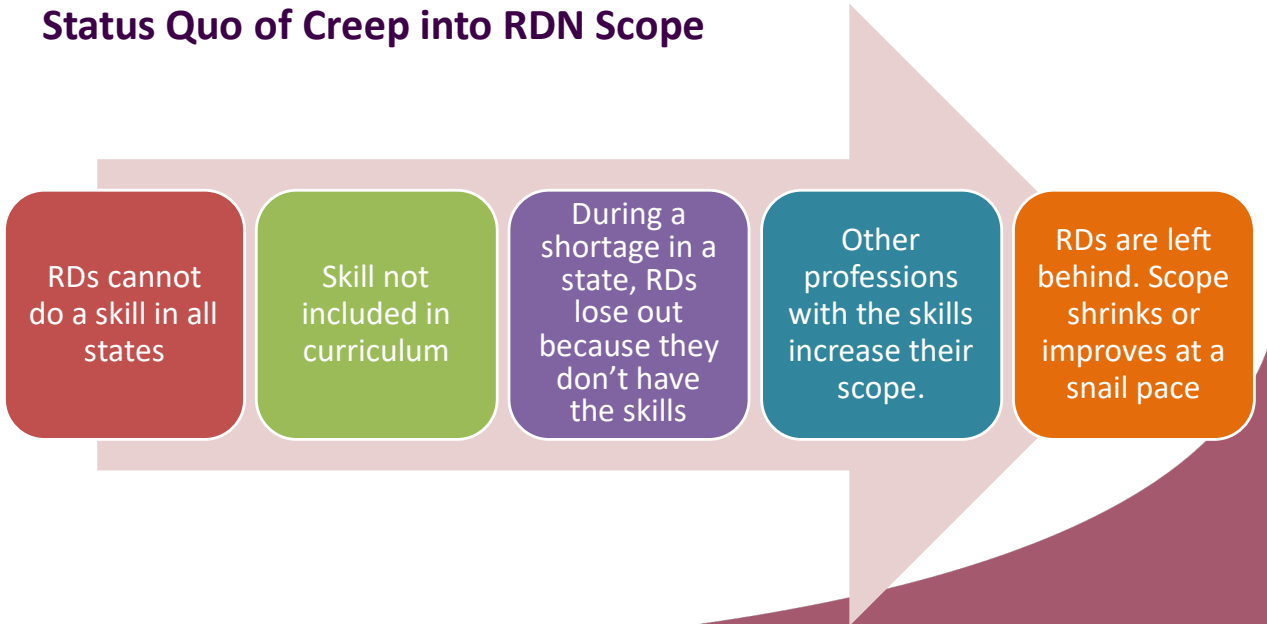


Updates on the Work of the Expanded Standards Committee Still to do:

- From the graduate CP curriculum,
 - Establish the Dietetic Internship curriculum: Determine the C and PIs to be completed in professional settings and alternate activities for practice
 - Determine the didactic C and PIs to be completed in the graduate degree (academic, didactic setting)



Current State of Limited Scope of the RD: Status Quo of Creep into RDN Scope



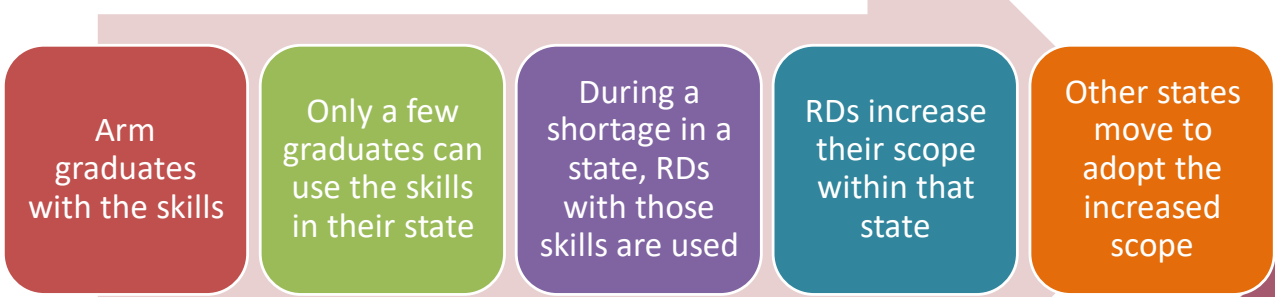
Creep on RDN Practice & Scope





Education is the Best Means to Expand Scope of Practice

Skills in the curriculum must come first, before licensure and scope



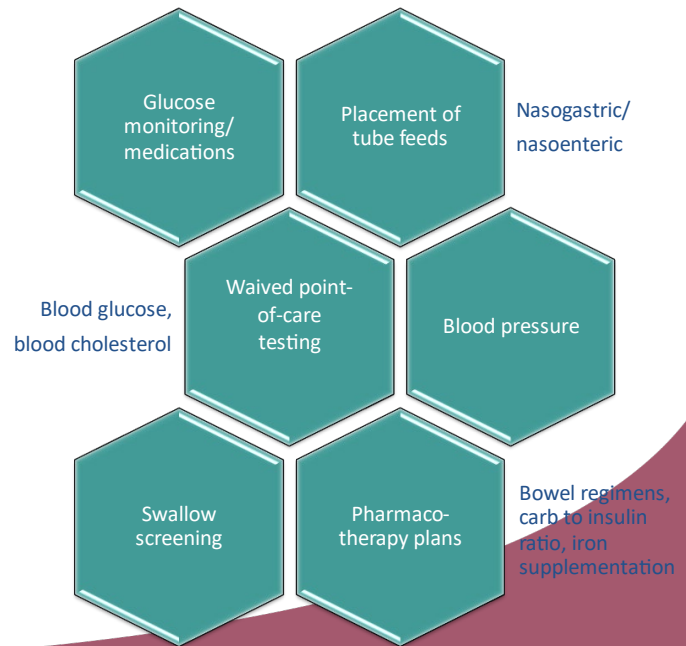
ACEND Plans to Continue to Enhance the Clinical Skills of Graduates

In the 2022 Standards ACEND added clinical skills:

1. Elevate the skills of RDNs
2. Serve the public
3. Enhance the value of the RDN
4. Support licensure

Plans to continue to enhance skills in the 2027 Standards, including:

1. Lactation
2. Enteral/parental nutrition
3. Others under discussion



Updates on the Work of the Expanded Standards Committee Standards Updates as of February 2025

Standards and Required Elements Update

- Work completed for the Associate Degree and DT Standards
 - Minimal to no changes
 - DT is an option within the Associate Standards
- Work is underway for the graduate CP only
 - Revisions to the DI and DPD will begin April 2025

Updates on the Work of the Expanded Standards Committee GCP Standards Updates as of February 2025



Key changes that are being proposed:

1. Elevate the education level of graduate **CP** program directors to doctoral degree
 - Existing program directors given several years to obtain the doctoral degree
2. Protect PDs by providing them sufficient time to manage the program
 - Required minimum percent time to run the program
 - Required student/faculty ratio
3. Protect students/interns who identify their own rotation sites
4. Specify the area of the graduate degree (NOT basket weaving)
5. Require PDs to comply with the traffic rules of the Dietetics Application Process

Standards Revisions Next Steps Curriculum Only

Curriculum Only: C and PIs

Standards & C and PIs

DELPHI 1
Proposed C
and PIs sent
for partner
feedback

DELPHI 2
Proposed C
and PIs
reviewed by
practitioners
and
employers

DELPHI 3
Public
Comment
period on
Standards
and C & PIs

Final revision
of the
standards

Standards
released in
2026 for
adoption in
2027
**Implemented
by programs
in 2027**



Communication from ACEND

- **ACEND Update**
 - Monthly update from ACEND posted on the website
- **Upcoming Town Halls**
 - Update on the Dietetics Application Process, Tuesday Apr 15, 11:00 am CT
 - Programs Share Successful recruitment Strategies, Tuesday June 17, 11:00 am CT
 - Directions for joining on the ACEND website
- **ACEND Staff**
 - 800-877-1600 x5400
 - acend@eatright.org

THANK YOU

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